THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS

ESTABLISHED BY CONGRESS 17 MAY 1910

NATIONAL BUILDING MUSEUM
441 F STREET, N.W., SUITE 312
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20001-2728

202-504-2200
202-504-2195 FAX

MEETING OF THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS

16 April 1998

AM 10:00 CONVENE, 441 F Street, NW, Washington, DC 20001

I. ADMINISTRATION

A. Approval of minutes:

19 March 1998

B. Dates of next meetings:

21 May 1998
18 June 1998

II. SUBMISSIONS AND REVIEWS

A. National Park Service, White House Liaison Office

CFA 16/APR/98-1, Gates and gatehouses. E Street and East and West Executive drives. Final design. (Previous: CFA 19/JUN/97-2.)

B. Department of the Treasury, U.S. Mint

CFA 16/APR/98-2, Fifty states circulating/commemorative quarter. Reverse design for first state: Delaware.

C. General Services Administration

1. CFA 16/APR/98-3, Interior Department Main Building. New handicapped entrance at C Street. Design options.

2. CFA 16/APR/98-4, Guard booth installations and locations for security cameras at the Court of Claims Building on Madison Place, U.S. Courthouse on Constitution Avenue, and Federal Office Building No. 6 on Maryland Avenue, S.W. Phase II.

II. SUBMISSIONS AND REVIEWS continued, 16 April 1998

D. Department of the Army

CFA 16/APR/98-5, Walter Reed Army Medical Center, Abram's Hall (Bldg. 14). "Semi-permanent" Multipurpose Court Sports Structure. Design.

E. District of Columbia Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs

1. Old Georgetown Act

Appendix I.

2. Shipstead-Luce Act

a. SL 98-45, 415 L'Enfant Plaza, S.W. New skylight in original fountain location. Conceptual.

b. Appendix II.

OLD GEORGETOWN SUBMISSIONS

NO.	ADDRESS AND OWNER	PROJECT
O.G. 98-71 HPA. 98-170	3323 P Street, N.W. Mr. and Mrs. Robert Moore Residence	Second floor addition over garage - revised design - revision to permit - permit

ACTION: Returned without Action. Case was withdrawn at the written request of applicant.

O.G. 98-73 HPA. 98-175	2712 O Street, N.W. Robert Schick Residence	Alterations to front and rear 2 -story addition - conceptual

ACTION: No objection to concept design for proposed alterations to front and for 2-story addition at rear as shown in supplemental drawings received and dated 20 March 1998. Submit working drawings with permit application for review by the Commission when ready.

O.G. 98-80 HPA. 98-199	3405 O Street, N.W. Mr. and Mrs. David Bruce Residence	Alterations and window replacement - permit

ACTION: No objection to issuance of permit for proposed alterations to front elevation, including new transom over entry door, wood paneled overhead garage door, removal of thru-wall A/C units and brick infill of openings, alterations to windows on first floor, and repair of existing wood sash on 2nd and 3rd floor windows. Working drawings conform to approved concept. See previous Action (O.G. 97-124).

NO.	ADDRESS AND OWNER	PROJECT
O.G. 98-81 HPA. 98-201	3143 N Street, N.W. Richard J. Seikaly Miss White Psychic Reading	Internally-illuminated signs - existing - permit

ACTION: Recommend **AGAINST** issuance of permit for existing internally-illuminated signs. NOTE: there was no response to staff's requests for supplemental information, and no representative was present at the meeting.

O.G. 98-84 HPA. 98-207	3116 O Street, N.W. Christ Church	Handicapped access ramp and alterations - permit

ACTION: No objection to issuance of permit for proposed handicapped access ramp and alterations, including cover over courtyard entry door to Christ Church. Working drawings conform to approved concept. See previous Action (O.G. 98-44).

O.G. 98-86 HPA. 98-211	3027 Q Street, N.W. Woodward and Walsh Residence	Rear 2-story addition - conceptual

ACTION: No objection to concept design of proposed rear 2-story addition. Recommend lowering the roof of the addition below existing cornice and the use of 2 over 2 light window sashes. Submit working drawings with permit application for review by the Commission when ready.

NO.	ADDRESS AND OWNER	PROJECT
O.G. 98-89 HPA. 98-214	3312 N Street, N.W. Mr. and Mrs. Heininger Residence	Alterations and gate for parking pad off alley - permit

ACTION: Recommend **AGAINST** issuance of permit for proposed alterations to garden wall, demolition of shed, and installation of new gate and parking pad. Recommend further study of a single parking pad that would preserve the character of the alley.

O.G. 98-92 HPA. 98-217	1515 31st Street, N.W. Residence	Trellis addition and swimming pool - conceptual

ACTION: Recommend **AGAINST** concept design of swimming pool as presented. Although there is no objection to a lap pool on this property, it should be designed to fit as in integral part of a landscaped setting. Recommend **AGAINST** concept of temporary cover which is inappropriate to the historic district. No objection to the concept of extension of the trellis.

O.G. 98-93 HPA. 98-218	3124 Q Street, N.W. Herbert and Patricia Miller Bowie-Sevier House	Demolition of institutional wing and other 1956 additions - permit

ACTION: No objection to issuance of permit for proposed demolition of nursing wing and connector, which were 1956 additions to the Bowie-Sevier House and are non-contributing elements both to the landmark property as well as to the historic district. Upon approval of design for replacement structure, submit permit application for the demolition of the west pavilion, another 1956 addition and a non-contributing element.

NO.	ADDRESS AND OWNER	PROJECT
O.G. 98-95 HPA. 98-220	2900 N Street, N.W. James M. Costan Residence	Alterations to front steps - conceptual

ACTION: No objection to concept design for alterations to front steps as shown in alternative A which provides a straight run of steps using 7 1/2 inch risers and limestone blocks or caps. No objection to introduction of brick base for re-used existing iron fence along 29th Street. Submit working drawings with permit application for review by the Commission when ready.

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16 April 1998 APPENDIX II

SHIPSTEAD-LUCE SUBMISSIONS

NO.	ADDRESS AND OWNER	PROJECT
S.L. 98-46	5201 16th Street, N.W. Republic of Liberia The Liberian Embassy	Renovation of residence - conceptual

ACTION: No objection to concept design for renovation of single family dwelling for use as the Liberian Embassy. Submit working drawings, including window details and landscape plan, including fencing and lighting, with permit application for review by the Commission when ready.

S.L. 98-49	8138 West Beach Drive, N.W. David Wye Residence	Garden fence on public space - permit

ACTION: No objection to issuance of permit for proposed garden fence on public space in front of property to support landscaping.

S.L. 98-50	2600 Rock Creek Drive, N.W. Dennis and Denia Hightower New residence	Excavation, grading and foundation work - permit

ACTION: No objection to issuance of permit for proposed excavation, grading and foundation work in coordination with construction of new single family dwelling which was approved in concept. See previous Action (S.L. 98-33).

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MEETING OF THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS

16
18 April 1998

The meeting was convened at 10:05 a.m. in the Commission of Fine Arts offices in the National Building Museum, 441 F Street, N.W.

Members present: Hon. J. Carter Brown, Chairman
Hon. Harry G. Robinson III, Vice-Chairman
Hon. Ann Todd Free
Hon. Emily Malino
Hon. Eden Rafshoon

Staff present: Mr. Charles H. Atherton, Secretary
Mr. Jeffrey R. Carson, Assistant Secretary
Mrs. Sue Kohler
Mr. José Martínez-Canino

I. ADMINISTRATION

A. Approval of minutes of the 19 March meeting. The minutes were approved without objection.

B. Dates of next meetings, approved as:

21 May
18 June

II. SUBMISSIONS AND REVIEWS

A. National Park Service, White House Liaison Office

CFA 16/APR/98-1, Gates and gatehouses, E Street and East and West Executive avenues. Final design. (Previous: CFA 19/JUN/97-2.) The Assistant Secretary recalled the previous submission and the Commission's feeling that the proposed carnelian granite retaining walls would not be harmonious with the generally grey tonality of the existing stone in the area. He said the Park Service was proposing a new color, and designs would also be shown for the gates and

gatehouses in the area. He asked Michael Summerlin to begin the presentation.

Mr. Summerlin showed simulated photographs of the four new gatehouses in their proposed locations: one on Hamilton Place, one on State Place, and two on E Street. He added that plans would also be shown for changes at the intersection of West Executive Avenue and E Street to allow for an easier flow of traffic into the White House precinct. He asked architect Perry Harrington to discuss the design of the gatehouses.

Ms. Harrington showed designs for two small exit gatehouses for Hamilton and State places, and two larger entry gatehouses for West Executive Avenue. She pointed out the simple, restrained design the Commission had requested, with Tuscan details, and said the materials would blend in with the retaining walls in the area. The plinth would be a grey, speckled granite, with limestone walls and almost-clear glass windows set in steel frames; the cornice would be terne-coated steel. She showed samples of the granite and limestone. Ms. Harrington also called attention to the door, which showed the panelled detailing requested by the Commission. She commented on the lighting, saying that it would be very low-key and located only on the soffit. Lastly, she said there would be no security cameras attached to the gatehouses.

The Assistant Secretary noted that the detail of using mitred joints at the corners had been changed; he said an L-shaped block would be used instead to avoid the possibility of an unattractive opening occurring at the mitred joint.

Architect Dennis Strah was then introduced. He showed drawings of the walls and gates, and samples of the granite, which was the same grey as that proposed for the gatehouse plinths. The design of the gates was based on those used at East Executive Avenue. He said the piers would be about 6 1/2 feet high, with the gates slightly lower.

The Chairman asked about the proposal to open a west-bound lane on E Street and whether that had been taken into consideration in developing plans for the area. Mr. Strah said they were aware of the E Street proposal and had been coordinating their plans with the Federal Highway Department. He then showed drawings of the proposed realignment of West Executive Avenue at the entrance to E Street and said the new alignment would bring the entrances at East and West Executive avenues into a more symmetrical balance and would also provide safer entrance from E Street. Lastly, Mr. Strah showed drawings of the masonry walls around the Sherman Monument and said a butt joint would be used for the vertical blocks so that the horizontal lines would remain visually strong.

The final design of the gates, gatehouses, and walls, and the realignment of West Executive Drive were then unanimously approved. Exhibit A

B. Department of the Treasury, U.S. Mint

CFA 16/APR/98-2, Fifty states circulating/commemorative quarter. Reverse design for first state: Delaware. Staff member Sue Kohler introduced this submission. She reviewed the history of the proposal for a circulating/commemorative coin honoring the fifty states, saying that the idea had been put forth in December 1993 at the first meeting of the Citizens Commemorative Coin Advisory Committee by David Ganz, a prominent member of the numismatic community and appointee to the first Citizens Committee. She noted that the only other time circulating/commemorative coins had been issued was during the Bicentennial, when the quarter and half-dollar bore reverse designs commemorating the events of 1776.

Mrs. Kohler recalled that the Secretary had reported on the possibility of the fifty-states program in 1996. The series was to be set up so that the states would be recognized in the order in which they were admitted to the Union, five state coins being issued each year for ten years. Mrs. Kohler said the Mint was happy with the program because they expected to make a substantial amount of money from seignorage, and the collectors appeared pleased, too. The Commission expressed enthusiastic support, seeing it as a way to involve a large number of American artists in coin design. As the program was set up by the Mint, however, the method of selecting the designs was left up to the individual governors, who could order design competitions or simply ask for concepts which would then be worked into designs by the Mint's artists. Mrs. Kohler described the design and approval process, step by step.

Before the designs for the Delaware coin were shown, Mrs. Kohler noted that the Mint had requested permission from Congress to alter the obverse of the quarter by moving some of the required inscriptions to that side to allow more room for the state's inscriptions on the reverse.

Mrs. Kohler then introduced Michael Burke and George Hunter from the Mint to show four concept designs for the reverse. The first showed a scroll and a quill pen, representing the signing of the Constitution, with a map of Delaware behind; the second portrayed Delaware's Caesar Rodney, on horseback as he rode to Philadelphia to break the tie in the signing of the Declaration of Independence; the third showed a figure of Liberty carrying a map of Delaware

and a torch; and the fourth showed a "Blue Hen", from the name given to a Delaware regiment during the Revolutionary War.

Mr. Hunter said the Citizens Commemorative Coin Advisory Committee had expressed a preference for the design showing Caesar Rodney on horseback but had requested some modifications which had been incorporated into the version shown to the Commission. The Commission agreed this was the best design choice and also approved of the changes made by the CCCAC. Further changes were recommended: The Chairman thought the inscription "First State" should say "The First State", and that "Caesar Rodney" should be smaller than "The First State". The Vice-Chairman and Ms. Malino questioned the way the horse's legs were drawn and asked that they be restudied to be sure they were anatomically correct. There was a discussion about the wisdom of placing a rendition of a quill pen behind the inscription "The First State", and the suggestion was made that if it became illegible, the pen might be placed above the inscription.

The Commission also looked at the proposals for minor changes to the obverse of the quarter. These involved a slight reduction in the size of the bust of George Washington, and the transfer of some of the required inscriptions from the reverse to the obverse to give more room for elements related to the commemorative reverse designs; the most noticeable was the use of "United States of America" at the top, rather than "Liberty", which had been placed further down. These changes were dependent upon final approval by Congress. Exhibit B

C. General Services Administration

1. CFA 16/APR/98-3, Interior Department Main Building. New handicapped entrance at C Street. Design options. Staff member José Martínez said this proposal had been reviewed in February 1996 in concept form along with other proposals for renovation at the Interior Department, and consisted of two ramps flanking the main C Street entrance. Now, Mr. Martínez said, there were three design proposals using lifts. The user would enter the lift through an opening in the facade and would be carried up to the main entrance landing, exiting through another door onto the landing and then entering through the main entrance doors. The new opening would be at the left (west) side of the C Street entrance, and the planting base would have to be pulled back about 12 feet to accommodate it. Mark Gilliand, from Shalom Baranes' office, was introduced to show drawings for the three different designs for the sidewalk entrance.

The design marked "A" consisted simply of a new doorway, similar to those at the main entrance, cut into the facade to give access to the lift; Mr. Gilliand said this was the

version preferred by the architect. Design "B" featured a free-standing, curved portal wall in front of the door opening, in a granite matching the building base. Design "C" had a glass and bronze vestibule in front of the door. There was unanimous agreement that Design "A" was by far the best, and it was approved. Exhibit C

2. CFA 16/APR/98-4, Guard booth installations and locations for security cameras at the Court of Claims Building on Madison Place, U.S. Courthouse on Constitution Avenue, and Federal Office Building No. 6 on Maryland Avenue, S.W. Phase II. The Assistant Secretary introduced Ed Sonnenschein and Calvin Williams from GSA to discuss these guard booth installations, which he said were part of a continuing project to provide perimeter security improvements for downtown federal office buildings.

Mr. Sonnenschein recalled that the February review of security camera installations was a part of this project, and he brought the members up to date by showing a photograph of the pole that would be used for mounting the cameras; it was similar to those in place around the FBI Building, as the Commission had requested. Turning to the guard booth proposal at the U.S. Courthouse, he said it would be at the northeast corner of the parking lot and would be a simple, level 4 bulletproof guard booth in a limestone color to tie in with existing elements, and he noted that the air conditioning unit would be placed on the ground rather than on the roof. Mr. Sonnenschein said that when the new annex was built on the site, a different guard booth would be used. The Chairman commented that coordinating the colors of the various elements would be an important factor in the success of the installation.

The guard booth at the Court of Claims would be at the northeast corner of the complex, at the entrance used by judges and staff. It would be inside the opening into the complex and would have no impact on the building entrance.

There were no objections to the guard booth installations, and they were unanimously approved. Exhibit D

D. Department of the Army

CFA 16/APR/98-5, Walter Reed Army Medical Center, Abram's Hall (Bldg. 14). "Semi-permanent" Multipurpose Court Sports Structure. Design. On an aerial photograph, the Assistant Secretary located the barracks (Abram's Hall) and the site south of it, adjacent to Aspen Street, proposed for the sports structure. He introduced Tracey Porter to discuss the project.

Ms. Porter recalled that the master plan called for a gymnasium adjacent to the new guest facility, but she said there was no funding for it and so a temporary sports facility was being proposed. She noted that the Commission had already approved a design for the gymnasium.

Ms. Porter showed photos of a similar installation at Fort Detrick, with an opaque canvas fabric used for the first four feet and a translucent fabric above. She said they were thinking of using a green opaque fabric and white for the translucent material. The structure would have radiant heat but no air conditioning. The Chairman thought that although air conditioning might not be necessary, there should be some way to release hot air through the roof. Mr. Carson commented on the lighting; he said the neighbors along Aspen Street had been queried and there were objections to the kind of light that would emanate from the structure during nighttime use.

There were no further questions or comments, and the structure was unanimously approved for use until the gymnasium could be built. Exhibit E

E. District of Columbia Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs

(The agenda order was changed and item E.2.a was discussed first.)

2. Shipstead-Luce Act

a. SL 98-45, 415 L'Enfant Plaza, S.W. New skylight in original fountain location. Conceptual. Mr. Martínez introduced Gary Schwerzler from the 4th Street Design Group, who noted that the plaza had recently undergone a change in ownership. He recalled the beautiful fountain designed by I.M. Pei that was originally in this location and said it had been removed some time ago. Now, he said, there were retail shops underneath and light was needed, so a pyramidal skylight was being proposed. Mr. Schwerzler commented on the form of the skylight, recalling that Mr. Pei had added a spectacular pyramid to the Louvre in Paris, and so this form seemed appropriate for his Washington buildings. He said the pyramid would be about 38 feet on a side and 15-feet high and would be similar in structure to the skylights in the National Gallery's East Building. He showed plan and section drawings to clarify the relationship of the pyramid to the buildings and pointed out the existing trees, which would provide an ever-changing play of light and shade, and the planting around the pyramid.

There were no objections to the skylight, and it was unanimously approved. Exhibit F

(The two Appendices, E.1 and E.2.b, were then discussed.)

E.1. Old Georgetown Act

Appendix I. The Chairman had some questions about a handicapped ramp for Christ Church (O.G. 98-84, 3116 O Street, N.W.), which were answered by Mr. Martinez. The Appendix was then approved without objection.

At this point the Secretary commented on the possibility of having an alternate member of the Old Georgetown Board who could serve when two members of the three-member board were absent. He said he had called the Justice Department, and as there was no objection, Ms. Ann Lewis had served in that capacity at the last Georgetown meeting.

E.2.b. Appendix II. The Assistant Secretary commented on the foundation work for the Hightower residence (SL 98-50, 2600 Rock Creek Drive, N.W.), recalling that it had been approved by the Commission, although the final design had not yet been approved.

The Appendix was then approved without objection.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:37 a.m.

Signed,

Charles H. Atherton
Secretary

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EXHIBIT A

22 April 1998

Dear Mr. McDaniel:

The Commission was pleased to see you and your colleagues during our meeting of 16 April 1998 for the presentation of final designs for the south perimeter security alterations at the White House. The members found reasonable the proposed realignment of West Executive Drive which together with East Executive Drive should provide a symmetrical composition as they intersect E Street. The Commission was especially enthusiastic about the design, scale, and choice of materials for the retaining walls, gates and gate houses.

One aspect of the proposed composition that bears mentioning is how the new entrances will be affected by possible changes to E Street itself. The widening of the street should be thought of as a potential enhancement of the improved entrances. In that light, it would seem prudent to coordinate the construction of the two projects. This effort should be worked out with the Federal Highway Administration which is sponsoring the road project.

As always, the staff is available should questions arise.

Sincerely,

J. Carter Brown
Chairman

Mr. James I. McDaniel
Director, White House Liaison
National Park Service, NCR
1100 Ohio Drive, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20242

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22 April 1998

EXHIBIT B

Dear Mr. Diehl:

At its meeting on 16 April the Commission of Fine Arts reviewed four designs for the reverse of the Delaware circulating/commemorative quarter, the first of the Fifty States series.

The Commission approved the design which showed Caesar Rodney on horseback, as modified by the CCCAC, with the following recommendations: (1) The inscription "First State" should be changed to "The First State", with the possibility of making "The" slightly smaller than the other two words; (2) "Caesar Rodney" should be in a smaller letter size than "The First State"; and (3) The horse's legs did not seem quite correct anatomically and should receive further study. It was also noted that placing the rendition of the quill pen behind "The First State" might create legibility problems, and if so, it might be placed just above that inscription.

The Commission also looked at a proposal to alter the inscriptions placed on the obverse, so as to give more space for elements related to the commemorative designs on the reverse.

Sincerely,

J. Carter Brown
Chairman

The Honorable Philip N. Diehl, Director
United States Mint
633 Third Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20220

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EXHIBIT C

22 April 1998

Dear Mr. Finberg:

During its meeting 16 April 1998, the Commission reviewed three alternative designs providing handicapped access to the South lobby of the Department of Interior Main Building at 18th and C Streets, N.W.

Of the options shown, "Option A" was much preferred and received unanimous approval. This solution provides an entrance door through the base of the building and a door at the platform level above the steps, both being very reminiscent of the architectural details of the historic 1936 building, and neither calling too much attention to itself. An equally sensitive sign program still needs to be developed.

Sincerely,

J. Carter Brown
Chairman

Mr. Jack Finberg
Special Assistant for Regional Coordination
General Services Administration
National Capital Region
7th and D Streets, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20407

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22 April 1998

EXHIBIT D

Dear Mr. Finberg:

During its meeting of 16 April 1998, the Commission reviewed Phase II of the security improvement program for government buildings in the federal core. The cameras and interior guard booth for the U.S. Court of Claims on Lafayette Square and the camera locations for FOB 6 on Maryland Avenue were approved without comment. The camera locations and replacement guard booth for the U.S. Courthouse on Constitution Avenue were also approved with the recommendation that the color tones for the booth be carefully studied to minimize the appearance of the associated mechanical units. A color palette should be submitted for review. Incidentally, the members were pleased by the revised design for the camera poles, noting that the camera devices are themselves an interim measure pending the development of reliable technological advances in miniaturization.

The Commission anticipates submissions of additional phases for this security program and offers the services of the staff as necessary.

Sincerely,

J. Carter Brown
Chairman

Mr. Jack Finberg
Special Assistant for Regional Coordination
General Services Administration
National Capital Region
7th and D Streets, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20407

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EXHIBIT E

22 April 1998

Dear Mr. Cheung:

During its meeting of 16 April 1998, the Commission reviewed and approved the proposed "semi-permanent" multi-purpose court sports structure adjacent to Abram's Hall (Building 14) on the Main Campus of Walter Reed. The members note that this structure is not in compliance with the master plan approved for the medical center, that it is an anomalous design in the surrounding context, and that a design for a permanent gymnasium structure adjacent to the new guest house facility has been approved. In that light, the Commission provides its approval with the understanding that this enclosure is a relatively short-lived measure only and will be removed upon construction of the approved gymnasium.

The staff is available should questions arise.

Sincerely,

J. Carter Brown
Chairman

Mr. Kisuk Cheung, P.E.
Chief, Engineering & Construction Division
Directorate of Military Programs
Army Corps of Engineers
Department of the Army
Washington, D.C. 20314-1000

16 April 1998 EXHIBIT F

AGENDA ITEM EXHIBIT

NO.	ADDRESS AND OWNER	PROJECT
S.L. 98-45	415 L'Enfant Plaza, S.W. Garai Creek Mgmt. Part.	Addition of skylight - conceptual

ACTION: No objection to general concept of introduction of a 40 feet square skylight in the center of what was originally the fountain for L'Enfant Plaza. Submit working drawings, including details and landscape plan with permit application for review by the Commission when ready.